(e) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Highways connecting Porbandar in West to Silchar in East passing through Palanpur, Chittorgarh, Kota, Shivpuri, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Muzaffarpur, Purnia, Siliguri, Guwahati are being 4-laned as part of East-West Corridor. The corridor is targeted to be completed by December 2008. The status of the corridor as on 31.01.2006 is as under:

Total Length	—	3448 km
Completed	—	220 km
Under Implementation	—	2855 km
Balance for award	—	373 km

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Buckingham Canal Network

1893. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific plans have been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government to review the Buckingham Canal along the East Coast of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal submitted by Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government have any plans to use the existing canal network to review the Buckingham Canal Network;

(d) if so, the specific time Schedule and route and other physical details of the revived Buckingham Canal Network in Andhra Pradesh, linking it to Chennai; and

(e) the funding earmarked for this project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) No, Sir. A proposal to declare Kakinada-Pondicherry canals (Buckingham canal, Commamur canal, Eluru canal and Kakinada canal) along with rivers Godavari and Krishna (1095 km) as a National Waterway is under consideration. Regarding Buckingham canal, a navigational channel of 32 meter bottom width and 1.8 meter depth is to be developed with 5 terminals. The development cost of the proposed National Waterway is estimated to be Rs. 542 crore and the timeframe envisaged thereof is 7 years. Under approved 10th Plan outlay, provision of Rs. 24 crore has been made for new waterways, out of which this waterway may also be funded after due approval.

Upgradation of Belgaum-Goa Highway

1894. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade and widen Belgaum-Goa highway;

(b) if so, the specifications of the proposed widening/upgradation;

(c) the cost of the project involved; and

(d) the proposed date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Belgaum-Goa/Karnataka border section of Belgaum to Panaji Highway (NH-4A) and its remaining section from Goa/Karnataka border to Panaji are proposed for upgradation under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) IIIA and IIIB respectively on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Since four laning of this National Highway is not found viable on BOT basis, presently it is proposed to improve it to two lane road with paved shoulders.